

# FARMERS' GAZETTE

## AND CHERAW ADVERTIZER.

VOLUME I.

CHERAW, SOUTH-CAROLINA, FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 6, 1839.

NUMBER 4.

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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**Report on the Agricultural Statistics of Marlborough District, read before the Pee Dee Agricultural Society, at its Semi-annual meeting, in October 1839, by Gen Jno. McQueen.**

The committee appointed by the Society at its June meeting, to take and report a statistical account of the agricultural interests of Marlborough District state; that the general indifference prevailing with planters, both as to the quantity of land cultivated by them, and its net product per acre, renders it exceedingly difficult to furnish a report as would be entirely satisfactory to themselves and devoid of some error. Yet from the best exertions they could make, and the most accurate information in their power, they believe that the following may be as correct as can at any time be made in the same way, and under the same circumstances.

There was cultivated in corn in the year 1838, 21,531 acres, which yielded 210,050 bushels; making an average of a few quarts less than 10 bushels per acre.— There was in cotton 12,882 acres, which yielded 4,988 bales; and in the absence of any better data, if we suppose each bale to contain 1100 pounds of seed cotton it makes 5,431,800 pounds, and an average of 421 pounds and a fraction per acre; or suppose 1200 pounds of seed cotton to the bale (which would perhaps be a more correct estimate as the weight of the bales ranged from 300 to 450 pounds) make an average of within a fraction of 460 pounds per acre. The number of negroes is 3,430, and the amount of money paid for flour, horses, mules, bacon and pork is \$5,935.

It would perhaps have been better, if the committee had been able to report the precise number of hands employed in raising the above production; but as the variety of negroes on plantations is so great, from the aged, to those but just able to commence some service, it would be impracticable to extract from amongst them, the exact amount of labor engaged; and therefore the entire number of slaves is rendered.

The committee were not required to take any account of small grain, but as the planters have, for the last few years, endeavored more generally to raise their own flour, it is deemed a matter of no inconsiderable importance to their interest, and some attention was therefore paid to it, by which six or seven thousand bushels were found to have been made, principally on the uplands of the District, averaging a very satisfactory production to the acre, and making flour equal to any from any other section.

The lands cultivated in corn and cotton vary from the best low lands on the river, to the lightest and most exhausted sandhills; and of course yielded a corresponding production; but whether upon the best or most exhausted lands the committee have been most decidedly impressed with the whole some advantages arising from the process of manuring—even with decayed vegetable matter, which requires but little preparation to render it valuable, and which abundantly surrounds the field of almost every planter.

Although no great quantity of this manure has yet been used in the District, it is pleasing to find that the minds of our planters are now rapidly turning to this sheet anchor of their agricultural interests, and to believe that the time is not far distant when thousands of acres of our now almost barren lands, will smile with such harvest as will well reward the laborer for his toil.

Although your committee could wish, for the interest of our planters, that the sum reported as having been paid for foreign horses, mules, pork, &c. were less than it is, yet they are satisfied, had the account been taken a few years ago, it would have been considerably larger; and that the planters have now pretty generally ascertained, the folly of employing all their efforts to the production of any one staple;—when, they receive its price in one hand, they extend it with the other, to some foreigner, for the actual necessities of their own subsistence, and such too, as they might raise with the same, or less labor, than that with which they have in fact procured them.

JOHN McQUEEN,  
Chairman.

From the Boston Courier.

**PLOUGHING AND PLOUGHS.**

Ploughing is considered by all farmers as the most important agricultural operation, either as it regards the immediate crop, or the future and permanent improvement of the soil. The farmer, who so manages his field, as to produce, in the main, the greatest reward for the labor and expense bestowed, will undoubtedly be considered as acting with a sounder discretion, than he

whose sole object is a present crop, without regarding the permanent improvement of his fields. To deepen the soil, by bringing to the surface each successive ploughing, a portion of the poorer sub-soil, and thereby exposing it to the enriching influence of the atmosphere, and to cover up and preserve from washing rains, and wasting winds, and the light vegetable matter upon the surface, as well as to facilitate the subsequent operations of the husbandman, are the only important uses of the plough.

Our old fields are rapidly approaching to a state of utter sterility. At each successive rotation of crops the vegetable mould is becoming thinner, and the product less; and the plough, in the hands of most farmers, so far from deepening the soil, and increasing its powers of producing, is really exhausting it of all its natural fertility; and will soon render it, as has already been done in some parts of our country by the same means, a sterile waste, unfit for cultivation.

I have seen some fields of land in Maine, which, though they were covered with thick forest, and what would have seemed an exhaustless store of fuel for vegetation, by means of the plough, robbed of every particle of vegetable sustenance, and now absolutely abandoned by the occupant as worthless.

Strange as the assertion may seem, it is nevertheless true, that farmers generally plough too much. The poorer sub-soil, which is turned up by the first ploughing, instead of being kept upon the surface, till it has become enriched by nature and exposure to the air, is by a second ploughing immediately turned back again into cold and lifeless bed; and the light vegetable mould, instead of being kept upon the surface, fit for the crop, is, by the same process, of cross ploughing, brought again to the surface, and blown away by winds, or washed away by rains.

The manner of ploughing, in the kind of plough, which is used by most farmers, have also a tendency to diminish the natural or acquired fertility of the soil. With ploughs, but little differing in construction from common wedges, the ground is not turned over, but crowded into ridges, or the furrows lapped upon each other in such a manner as to expose much of its best properties to waste. The writer has ascertained from actual experiment, that an acre of land yielding not more than a ton of hay to the acre, at the usual season of ploughing greenward, say the tenth of May, contains more than twelve tons of vegetable matter, consisting of the roots and tops of grass and other vegetable remains upon the surface. Such a mode of ploughing, then, as will be best calculated to secure for the benefit of the crop, this mass of enriching substance, the farmer should not hesitate to adopt. By completely inverting the sward, and laying it as flat and smooth as the nature of the ground will admit, and then cultivating the ground without disturbing the soil, with the application of a light dressing of compost, land may not only be kept in heart, but wonderfully improved. With one ploughing in this way, and spreading on one top dressing of compost manure, of about twenty cart loads to the acre, and mixing it finely with the poor earth at the surface, I have raised two crops of grain or roots, and laid the land to grass. In the ordinary way of cultivating, four ploughings, as many times harrowing, and two dressings of manure, are considered necessary. I have then saved three ploughings, and as many harrowings, one dressing of manure, and at the same time have deepened, and permanently improved the soil, and more than doubled my crops. Ten years ago, I was upon the point of abandoning some of my old fields in despair. They had been cultivated in the usual mode of ploughing and cropping, alternately under the plough, and in grass, and had become so impoverished, that the products were insufficient to cover the expense of cultivation. The same piece of land, which gave me one ton of hay, will now, at the same distance of time after laying to grass, give me three.

In the cultivation of land, which has been a year or more under the plough, nearly the same course is to be pursued, especially when it is intended to sow wheat or rye, plough your land so as to turn under the rich mould, bring to the surface a portion of the fresh earth that has never before been disturbed by the plough, and mix this well, (if the preceding crops have not been well manured) with a light dressing of well rotted compost, and from twenty to fifty bushels of slaked lime to the acre, and I am confident you will never require a Legislative bounty, as an inducement to cultivate wheat.

Good ploughing cannot be effected without ploughs suitably adapted to the purpose. In this important agricultural implement, I venture the assertion, without fear of contradiction, that the Americans have made greater, and more useful improvements in its adaptation and fitness for the designed purpose, within the last twenty years, than have been made in Great Britain for a century. From a conviction of the indispensable necessity of good ploughing to a suc-

cessful tillage, nearly twenty years ago I persuaded the person, who occupied the farm I now own, to send to England for an improved Scotch plough, (I think Small's) which was highly recommended in the agricultural publications of that time. This was before the introduction of the cast iron plough into this part of the country. The plough came, and I must confess I was greatly astonished at the first sight of it, and as much disappointed when I witnessed its great operations. A large, misshapen combination of wood and iron, it was the laughing stock of my neighbors, who at once denounced me as a "book farmer." The plough was laid aside, and has been kept for show, and in construction and workmanship, when compared with American ploughs, furnishes a striking illustration of the superior skill and ingenuity of our own mechanics, over those of Europe. I can now do twice as much work, and do infinitely better, with Prouty & Mear's improved plough, with one horse, and a single hand, than a yoke of oxen and a horse, and one additional hand to drive, could do with the famous Scotch plough.

Public attention was first awakened to the subject of improvements upon the old fashioned, wedge-like plough, by the writings of Mr. J. H. Johnson, who in 1798, published his new theory of the construction of the mould board, formed upon mathematical and philosophical principles. It was in consequence of a suggestion from him, that Robert Smith, of Pennsylvania, in 1803, substituted the cast iron for the wooden mould board, for which he obtained a patent. This was the commencement of a series of improvements which have resulted in the substitution of cast iron for all parts of the plough, except the beam and handles, and such has been the progress in reducing this implement to a fitness for the purposes designed, that the American cast iron plough, as now constructed, may in truth be considered, as it has been denominated, the most important instrument known to man. About fifteen years since the cast iron share came into general use in this part of the country. Wood's Tyce's, Hitchcock's, Howard's and last of all Prouty & Mear's, have each had their share of public favor. I have particularly attended to the operation of all these, and noticed the defects and excellencies of each. About twelve years ago, Hitchcock's plough, then in general use, and highly approved by the farmers of New York, was introduced into the State by Mr. Prouty, who was well acquainted with its practical use, as well as the construction of the plough. It is a strange misapprehension, that by its mechanical skill, from that time, suggested to in various and various directions, and improvements in this plough, and about two years since, Prouty & Mear's obtained from the government a patent for their improved cast iron plough.

The prevailing difficulty with all ploughs, with the exception of the last named, is that the force necessary in the draught, is not applied directly to the centre of resistance. Waters on this subject, as well as practical farmers, have erred in this notion, that the beam should be placed directly over the land side of plough and that the cut of the coulter, or the position of the standard, should be square, or at a right angles with the cut of the share, thinking that if the share and coulter make an acute angle on the land side, the plough will incline to fall to the right. This would be the tendency, and as the other parts of the plough are so constructed as to resist and overcome this inclination. By so placing the coulter as to form an acute angle with the plane of the share, on the land side, the team is brought more directly over the centre of the pough, as is the case with Prouty & Mear's improved plough, and thereby the power necessary to move it, is applied more directly to the centre of resistance, and the force required to move it, and overcome this resistance, is of course less than when applied on one side. I cannot better make myself understood, than by supposing the land, or left hand side of a harrow, to be kept on a straight line with the line of draught. It will readily be perceived that the force necessary to draw it when so placed, will be greater than if drawn in the usual way, by applying the draught to the centre. This is decidedly one of the most valuable improvements in the construction of the plough, that has been made in modern times, and for which the public are indebted to the ingenuity and skill of Messrs. Prouty & Mear's. A greater ease of draught is the only advantage resulting from this improvement. Another and perhaps greater benefit to its perfect adaption to the end designed is by leaving the ground in the best possible condition. The acute angle, which is made in the land side of the furrow slice, by the peculiar construction of this plough, enables the ploughman to lay the furrows together, like feather-edged boards. This, in greenward, is very desirable, as the grass is thereby prevented from springing up between the furrow slices much more effectually, than when the furrows are cut at right angles. The grass is completely shut in, and will not ripen or injure the crop, or increase the labor of cultivation. Not only in greenward, but in old ground, the superior manner in which the work is done by this plough is very perceptible. There is no tendency to crowd the ground into ridges; the soil is taken up, as it were, and turned over, and left loose, and in the best state to derive vegetable aliment from the air, and to enable the roots of plants to penetrate, and strike down in search of food.

Another advantage attending the peculiar construction of Messrs. Prouty & Mear's plough, is its durability. When the resistance is all upon one side of the beam, there must be a constant tendency of the plough to the left, or land side: the friction is thereby increased in this part, and the wear, of course, is greater; but when the beam is placed more over the centre of the plough, and the resistance which it has to encounter, is upon both sides of the beam, its movement is more regular, and the friction equal in all parts. These are some of the peculiar properties of this plough, which give it a decided preference to any other now in use. On conferring with some of my neighbors, relative to the work of Prouty & Mear's plough, it is believed, that in ploughing a field of ten acres, the amount of labor saved, added to the amount gained in consequence of the improved till, when compared with the work of any other plough, is fully equal to the price paid for it.

Lexington, Mass.

From the New England Farmer.

**BURYING BEES IN WINTER.**  
Our last swarm came off in June, and notwithstanding the old adage that "a swarm in June is not worth a spoon" we should refuse an offer of two spoons for this, and more, unless they were very nice and very heavy. True, the quantity of honey which they have gathered is not very great, but, with our way of managing such hives, we think amply sufficient for their supply. We propose burying them through the winter, a practice which we have adopted in two successive years, and had we continued it the third, our old colony, instead of coming to an untimely end, would probably have been in existence now through its descendants.

My method of burying bees is as follows. The operation is performed the last of November. The pit in which they are placed is dug considerably larger than the hives, in every respect. On the bottom of the pit two sticks say of scantling, four inches square, are so placed that a cavity may be left into which the water if there is any may settle and run off without injury to the bees. On these blocks I lay my floor board, which should be sound and full an inch thick; if more, no matter. The top of the hive should be covered with a two inch plank, or if more convenient, a piece of wide thick slab with the rounding side up, so that if the frost comes out, and heavy rains fall, it may serve as a roof to carry the water from over the hives and turn it into the pit below. Straw is then placed as compactly as may be around the hives, and the earth thrown on so as to form a cone above it, which again operates as a roof to turn the water as it falls. With regard to the depth of burying we can only say, that in our former experiments, we never sank the top of the hives below the surface. Whether it would be well to do so we cannot say. Some, when burying their bees, drive down a stake near the hives, as they say to admit the air; but we do not see why a stake, drove with the earth compacted placed around it, can form an air hole more than the earth itself. And if it could, we do not see the necessity of it for the object of burying bees is to put them as much as may be in a state of dormancy through the winter, by which their stock of provisions is lengthened out, to secure them from sudden and often fatal changes from heat and cold and from storms and sunshine.

In selecting a place for burying, it is important that a dry one should be chosen, and we prefer one that is cold to a warm one, and could we regulate the condition of the earth around them, we would freeze it the night after their burial, and keep it frozen until time for their exhumation in the spring.

We, in both instances of our former burying, took them up some of the last days of March, and all the dead we found from the four hives thus kept would not half fill a person's hand, and on exposure to the sun and atmosphere, the living were as bright and lively as though they had known no winter, and they gave swarms earlier and more frequently than did the hives that were not buried, the ensuing summer.

From the Charleston Courier.

**MESSES. EDITORS.**—If not intruding on your columns, the following article may be altogether unprofitable; particularly at this season of the year, when planters find iron and experience, that a change of overseers is actually indispensable for the better regulation and successful management of their agricultural interests. Permit me then to make a few remarks on the QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF OVERSEERS, that planters may escape the too frequent imposition of those men, who are destitute in every respect of those qualities on which the successful and proper management of the planter's interest entirely depend.

1st. "Experience doth" is a truth to which every man of business will readily assent, and I know of no business that demands more of this ingredient than the business devolving on the Overseer; and while experience may justly include every other qualification, yet human nature teaches us that there are such characters in the world as know a great deal but do nothing—to such characters the Apostle James may have alluded when he said, "He that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

2nd. The Overseer should be a man (to use the language of Solomon) that can "discern both time and judgment," not only how to do, but when, as a considerable and important end may be accomplished by this knowledge, which may have given origin to the well-known maxim, "A stitch in time, saves nine."

3d. An Overseer should understand his business in such a manner, that he may be able to have his arrangements well ahead, that he may the better embrace any advantage that may present itself in the executing of the same.

4th. The Overseer should study the nature and disposition of his employer, and as far as in his power, (consistent with what is right and just) acquiesce in all his orders and requests; and should the Employer extend an order contrary to his interest or in any way confuse the arrangement of plantation work, it should be pointed out to the Employer by the Overseer, and if the Employer still wishes his orders carried into execution, it is the duty of the Overseer to obey, and note the same on his plantation day book.

5th. The Overseer should endeavor to find out the ability, character and disposition of the people under his charge, so that he may apportion his work to their several abilities, yet without any apparent or visible distinction, and as regards their character he will scarcely meet any difficulty.

6th. The Overseer should have a tolerable knowledge of physic, that he may be able to administer medicine properly, when sickness demands, and for this knowledge every Overseer should be in possession of "Ewell's Medical Companion," by the frequent perusal of which he will find great good resulting from little knowledge—or in other words, a little knowledge of medicine may do wonders at times. A day journal should certainly be kept.

7th. It is highly desirable that an Overseer should have some knowledge of surgery, that he may be able with safety to open a vein, extract a tooth, or bandage a broken limb.

8th. An Overseer should be a humane man, remember the injunction of our Lord, "Be ye merciful," at the same time without partiality. "That servant which knoweth his master's will and doeth it not, shall be beaten with many stripes," and that servant which did not know it shall have a few, (that is, if we have a right to believe he had an opportunity of knowing the duty imposed.)

9th. An overseer should have some knowledge of Carpenter's work, for every experienced Overseer will testify with me that the set of "blue cloths" are the almost sole idlers on every plantation, and where they are not under the control of some positive superintendent, a year's work has been made out of a three month's job.

10th. To conclude, an Overseer should be a sober, honest, industrious, humane and knowing man, a man of truth and a man that "feareth his Creator." Such a man I recommend without any hesitation to every Planter who may wish order, discipline and subordination, the only way to the successful management of the agricultural interest.

**AN OVERSEER.**

**AGRICULTURAL CONVENTION.**

The following list of delegates we copy from the Columbia Telescope.

From Marlborough.

James Gillespie, John McQueen, W T Elderbe,

Chesterfield, J Wright,

Thomas E Powe, Marion, B Moody,

Thomas Evans, William Evans,

Edgefield, J O Butler,

W Brooks, J A Nicholson,

James Terry, Darlington,

Thomas E McIver, Thomas P Lide,

W H Cannon, sr, J F Ervin,

W Wingate, Fairfield,

J J Myers, J B Davis,

W K Davis, J H Mans,

Edward Means, D Elkin,

T W Moore, J D Crawford,

F H Elmore, Robert W Gibbs,

James Gregg, Robert Henry,

Sumter,

John P Richardson, James B Richards n,

D St P DuBose, Thomas J Wilder,

Isaac Le. or, J W English,

Anderson and Pickens,

J W Norris, J P R. d,

J N Garvin, Jesse M Kinney,

Thomas Pinckney, Spartanburgh,

H H Thompson, John Crawford,

John W Hunt, Samuel N Evans,

Wm K Poole, Orange and St. Matthews,

John M Felder, S Glover,

S B Dwyer, Jacob Strowman,

Elisha Tyler, D F Jamison,

Lancaster,

Benjamin Massey, J P Crockett,

M Clinton, John M Baskin,

Wm Reed, Abbeville,

John A Calhoun, P F Moragne,

A B Arnold, James Fair,

D L Wardlaw, George M Duffie,

Simeon Fair, Newberry,

Bannister, Greenville,

Barnwell,

J C Geiger, W F Parical,

L Bozzer, H J Coughman,

St. Phillip's and St. Michael's,

F D Quash, W Washington,

St. John's Berkely,

John H Dawson, P P Palmer,

St. Andrew's,

W Lawton, B R Carroll,

Wm J Bull, St. John's Colleton,

W M Murray, J Jenkins Mickie,

St. Helena Island,

J A Scott, Prince William's,

John E Frampton, Prince George Winyaw,

R F W Allison, All Saints,

B F Dunkin,

The committee of fifteen, to prepare business for the Convention were, B R Carroll, W T Elderbe, Thos. Evans, W H Cannon, Jas. B Davis, J Gregg, W Reynolds, J P Richardson, A B Arnold, J H Hammond, F D Quash, J A Scott, B F Dunkin, W Brooks, and F Massey.

On the second evening of the meeting following additional delegates were present.

From Fairfield.—W J. Alden, John M. Robertson, Burrell B. Cook.

From Sumter.—Hon. J. S. Richardson.

From Anderson.—J. B. Reid, J. E. Calhoun.

From Richland.—R. H. Goodwyn, D. D. Fenley.

From Edgefield.—M. Watson.

From Lexington.—H. Arhus.

From Union.—Z. P. Harndon.

From Prince George Winyaw.—Thos. G. Carr.

The President called for the Report of the Committee of fifteen, when the Chairman, B. R. Carroll, Esq. submitted the following REPORT.

The Committee appointed to prepare business for the Agricultural Convention, beg leave respectfully to report: That after an enquiry in which the sentiments of the different sections of our State have been consulted, they are of opinion that the following subjects are fit and proper for the consideration of the convention, viz:

1. The creation by the Legislature, of an Agricultural professorship in the South Carolina College.

2. The appropriation by the Legislature of a sum of money to defray the expenses of a Geological and Agricultural Survey of the State.

3. The establishment of an Agricultural School in some central and healthy position of the State.

4. The establishment of a State Board of Agriculture, to meet at Columbia or somewhere else in the State.

5. The introduction into our free schools of some elementary work on Agriculture.

In limiting their recommendation to the propositions alluded to, the committee have done so with the view of not crowding upon the convention the consideration of too many to the disadvantage of interest. They believe that the fault of our Agricultural meetings has heretofore been, that they have attempted too much, and done too little. Hoping, therefore, that they have selected such matters as will interest the convention, they beg to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

The Report having been laid before the Convention for discussion, Charles R. Carroll, Esq., addressed the Chair in support of its recommendations. He was followed by James H. Hammond, Esq., in opposition, John A. Calhoun, Esq., and B. R. Carroll, Esq., spoke in reply to Col. Hammond.

B. R. Carroll, Esq., moved to consider the propositions of the report separately, and to add to the first and second propositions, the words, "and that the same be recommended to the Legislature; so that they would read as follows:

1. The creation, by the Legislature, of an Agricultural Professorship in the South Carolina College, and that the same be recommended to the Legislature.

2. The appropriation, by the Legislature of a sum of money to defray the expenses of a Geological and Agricultural survey of the State, and that the same be recommended to the Legislature.

Col. Hammond moved to lay the first proposition on the table, which was agreed to.—He then moved to lay the second proposition on the table, which was rejected.

The Ayes not being satisfied, the votes were taken by tellers, when it was found that there were 34 Ayes and 57 Noes. So the second proposition was before the meeting.

H. H. Thomson, Esq. moved,

"That upon that proposition, there should be a division of the question, and that the vote should be taken on the propriety of recommending a Geological survey apart from an Agricultural survey."

This motion was under discussion, when it was moved by Dr. Arnold, that the Convention do now adjourn, to meet on to-morrow evening at 51.2 o'clock.

The Convention then adjourned.

ROBERT W. GIBBS.

Sec'y.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 27, 1839.

The Convention was organized at the hour appointed. The minutes of the previous meeting were read.

The President stated that the Convention was prepared for business, and that the subject for their consideration was "the propriety of recommending to the Legislature a Geological survey apart from an Agricultural survey of the State."

Gen. McDuffie addressed the Convention